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February 2, 2005.

Ms. Angela Reynolds , Environment Officer
Department of Planning and Building: Sports Park DEIR
City Of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Concerns: Project Power Requirements for Electricity

This project requires artificial lighting of sports fields at 100% illumination from dusk to close of sports activity and then at 50% illumination until 1 hour after all patrons leave the facility. The facility is expected to have nightly, adult sports activities that may continue to ten or 11pm, or later. It is estimated that this will use 2,390-Mwh of power annually, for lighting.

There is no mention made of use of alternative energy resources to light or operate this park. There is no mitigation to the community, through generating solar, wind power, biomass power, or hydrogen fuel cell to reduce the greenhouse gasses produced by this expenditure of power to light the fields. All this contributes to local air pollution and planetary global warming.

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Our power resources are needed for purposes like pumping water and providing for power needs of Long Beach industry, clean energy for Port conversions to non-polluting fuels and for the needs of our human population. Global warming may cause a significant rise in seasonal temperatures, requiring more air conditioning for homes and businesses to remain habitable. Rising tides along our coastline may require pumping and moving water to protect Port functions. This use of electricity is not in our best interest for a sustainable future for Long Beach.

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QUESTIONS:
Is this excessive use of electricity economically or environmentally viable, as US and CA energy resources are strained by population and job growth?
How can use of so much energy to light new sports fields be justified, to create so few jobs and provide recreation opportunities to so few citizens?

Thank you for your considerations of my concerns.

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KAREN ASHIKEH LAMANTIA/FOURTH LETTER

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This comment questions why alternative energy resources to light or operate the Proposed Project were not discussed in the Draft EIR. Specific alternative energy resources were not discussed in the Draft EIR because they are not proposed as part of the project, and mitigation is not required to reduce project impacts related to electricity usage to below a significant level. The document does discuss compliance with Title 24 and incorporation of green building strategies that may contribute to higher energy efficiency levels and further reduce project electricity demand. As stated in the document, a precise estimate of the reduction in energy demand for the Proposed Project cannot be provided until the architectural design phase; however, green buildings generally contribute to a reduction in grid congestion, power reliability, and availability problems.

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The commentor misrepresents estimates for project site electricity demand as excessive. As stated in the Draft EIR, the Proposed Project is estimated to result in a total increase of approximately 2,102 MWh annually compared to existing conditions. Based on the California Energy Commission (CEC) projections for SCE's service area in 2012, the maximum project-related annual consumption will represent less than 0.01 percent of forecasted growth. Based on these estimates, it was concluded that sufficient transmission and distribution capacity exists, off-site improvements will not be necessary, and on-site improvements will occur in a logical, efficient manner utilizing the most up-to-date design, construction, and operational methods available.

It is unclear what thresholds the commentor is using to define estimated project site gas demand as "excessive." The Proposed Project will be required to comply with the Building Energy Efficiency Standards found in Title 24 of the California Administrative Code and the City of Long Beach's Green Building Policy. As such, the Proposed Project will not result in the use of substantial amounts of electricity. Please also refer to Response to Comment P-7-1.